

AICC

Alaska Interagency
Coordination Center



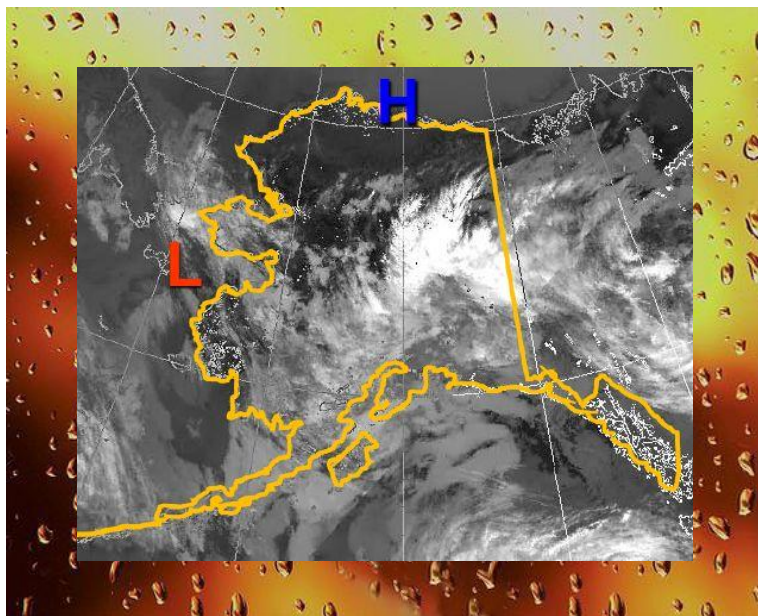
Morning Highlights

Monday, June 20, 2011
Morning Highlights
Time: 11:00 a.m.

Contacts
Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center: (907) 356-5511
Report Fires: 911

Fire Weather

A series of low pressure waves moving in from the east will bring rain to much of Alaska over the next couple of days. High pressure is expected to move back into the state by Wednesday, bringing improved conditions to northern Alaska for the second half of the week. Southern Alaska will remain cool and damp as a result of low pressure from the west. Please continue to be careful with fire in the outdoors throughout Alaska's fire season. Most recent fire starts have been human-caused.



A Fire's Last Days

Through the hard work of hundreds of firefighters and with a bit of help from Mother Nature, Alaska's fire situation that looked so dire two or three weeks ago now looks much better. The air is clear of smoke, the major threat to homes is past, and many of the firefighters have gone home. Yet, as of this morning, 503 firefighters remain on the four Alaska fires that are still staffed. What do these people do on a rainy day at the fire? Surprisingly, there is still a lot of work to be done. Crews are still mopping up – that dirty job of finding any remaining hot spots and making sure they are dead out. Other firefighters are performing fireline rehab. This job entails reshaping excavated firelines, installing erosion barriers, and in some cases pulling cut vegetation back into the lines to ensure that soils do not wash away. Alaska's permafrost presents special challenges in this job that are not found elsewhere. Another job firefighters are performing is backhaul of equipment and supplies. It takes a lot of "stuff" to fight a fire, and this stuff has to eventually be brought back off the fire, taken to a warehouse, and reconditioned for the next fire. Due to the remote location of many Alaska fires, much of this backhaul is done with helicopters. Finally, firefighters must break down their camps and clean up. The Hastings Fire, for example, supported nearly

1,000 people in a base camp and three spike camps, so this is a big job. A fire's last days may not be as dramatic or exciting as the first days, or as apparent to the public, but the work behind the scenes continues.

Wildfire Update

One new fire, the **Willow Lake Fire**, was reported yesterday. The escaped campfire was suppressed and is now in monitor status. Statewide, 32 fires are currently active, with four of these staffed and the remainder in monitor status. According to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center, there have been 331 fires this year to date in Alaska, and 263,919 acres have burned. Current fires of note include:

The **Hastings Fire**, 15 miles northwest of Fairbanks, remains at 22,819 acres and is 61 percent contained. Fire behavior yesterday included smoldering, creeping, individual and group tree torching, and interior short crown runs. A burnout on the east side of the fire occurred yesterday to eliminate a pocket of unburned fuels. Work on the fire includes mop-up, fireline rehab, and equipment backhaul.

The **East Volkmar Fire**, 25 miles northeast of Delta Junction, is 58,059 acres and is 39 percent contained. Work continued yesterday on a hotspot in the interior, but fire behavior was minimal overall. Crews are performing mop-up, rehab, and backhaul activities. Heavy demob is occurring.

The **Little Creek Fire**, 36 miles south of Tanana, is 25,331 acres and zero percent contained. Fire behavior yesterday included creeping, group tree torching, and running. A burnout was conducted at Akers airstrip and surrounding areas. The burnout will continue when conditions allow.

For further information:

Alaska Fire Situation Report:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>

Fire news releases:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>

Alaska Fire Information

The Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center (also called Joint Information Center or JIC) continues to be operational. The information center is an interagency communications office responsible for researching, coordinating and disseminating wildfire information to the public and the media. The JIC is activated when fire officials determine that the number and complexity of wildfires burning across the state call for additional public information presence and coordination. Due to the current decrease in fire activity, office hours have been reduced to 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Phone 907-356-5511 for the latest information.

Fire Information Contacts

- **Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center**
 - 907-356-5511
 - AlaskaJIC@gmail.com
- **Hastings Fire Information:**
 - 907-479-4801
 - <http://inciweb.org/incident/2261/>
 - HastingsFire@gmail.com
- **East Volkmar Fire Information:**
 - <http://inciweb.org/incident/2253/>
- **Fairbanks Area Division of Forestry Fire Information:**
 - Terry Anderson: 451-2626 x2
 - FireInfoFAF@gmail.com

Aviation Awareness

The TFR ceiling on the Hastings Fire has been lowered to 4,000 MSL. The new NOTAM FDC is 1/8460. The East Volkmar Fire (FDC 1/7595) remains unchanged. Helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft support fire suppression and crew/cargo movement throughout the state, frequently in areas with visibility restricted due to smoke. There have recently been aircraft incursions into fire TFR areas. Please check NOTAMS for Temporary Flight Restrictions: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>. Report new fires you may observe to the nearest FAA facility.

Wildfire Smoke

Individuals with health concerns should consult personal medical providers.

- AK Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – Smoke: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- DEC Air Quality Advisories/Alerts: <https://myalaska.state.ak.us/dec/air/airtoolsweb/AirOnlineServices.aspx>
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Smoke Visibility/ Air Quality: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality> and <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/Docs/ParticulateLevels.pdf>

Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Alaska Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation Report: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group - Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Protect your home and property!: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Alaska Division of Forestry and BLM Alaska Fire Service.